Investment in Agriculture Sector

†300. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Win the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment made in the agriculture sector through various schemes and projects during the last three years;

(b) whether the investment in the agriculture sector is registering a continuous downward trend;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to enhance investment in the agriculture sector; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to enhance investment in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The quantum of investment through various plan schemes and projects in agriculture sector including allied sectors of forestry and logging and fishing in the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Plan outlay
2003-04 (Actual)	3068.67
2004-05 (Revised Estimates)	4420.00
2005-06 (Budget Estimates)	5998.40

(b) According to data released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the total investment in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing, increased in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) from Rs. 20360 crore in 2001-02 to Rs.24186 crore in 2003-04.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A number of schemes to boost investment in agriculture sector have been taken up. The details of allocation of schemes for the year 2005-06 are as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(i) National Horticulture Mission: A sum of Rs.630 crore has been provided for the scheme, aimed at ensuring an end-to-end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, under one umbrella, in an integrated manner.

(ii) Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization: A sum of Rs. 72 crore has been allocated for the scheme, aimed at inducing large investments from private and cooperative sectors for setting up agricultural markets, marketing infrastructure and support services such as grading, standardization etc.

(iii) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP): It was launched in 1996-97 to encourage the States for completion of on-going irrigation projects through Central Loan Assistance. This has been reviewed recently and the focus has been on completion of last mile projects. In 2005-06 an outlay of Rs. 4800 crore has been provided to improve the pace of implementation.

(iv) Micro Irrigation: Rs. 400 crore has been allocated for promoting micro irrigation through drip and sprinkler irrigation in the year 2005-06 to enhance water use efficiency.

(v) Rural Credit: Measures/steps to increase the credit flow to farm households by 30% through Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperatives Banks.

(vi) Gramin Bhandaran Yojana: For the storage of agricultural produce a scheme of Gramin Bhandaran Yojana has been launched for which Rs.80 crore has been provided in the current annual plan.

(vii) Agricultural Research: A sum of Rs. 1150 crore has been provided for agricultural research as apart of strategy to revive and encourage crop diversification.